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Memories of color

Zeng Yingchun was born in Heilongjiang Province in 1963. As a young girl she followed her father to the countryside when he was sent down to labor.

Her watercolor paintings are defined by a quest to recapture the miracle of spring with an approach that blends Chinese ink styles with a Western attention to detail.

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Web winces at Chen's New York antics

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Orphan's TV story less miserable than imagined

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

China was introduced to the heart-breaking tale of Yang Liujiu on May 23.

In a feature program aired on the Guangxi TV Broadcasting Network, viewers learned how the seven-year-old boy had been left to fend for himself in the Village of Mapotun after losing his father and being abandoned by his mother.

Yang was filmed supplementing his meager yearly allowance of 500 yuan by foraging for wild herbs and catching fish.

The story of the hardscrabble orphan won sympathy from viewers, who raised 5 million yuan and arranged for Yang to be transferred to Kangqiao School in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

But within several days after his arrival, Mapotun village officials and Yang's cousin Yang Lijun appeared in Shenzhen to ask that the boy be returned to attend his semester exams on June 30.

The sudden interest in Yang's case prompted an investigation by reporters who learned the boy's situation less miserable than most imagined.

Yang arrived in Mapotun two years ago and began living with Yang Qulin, his cousin. When money became scarce, Yang Qulin and his wife left the village to work for two months in Wuzhou. Before leaving they provided Yang with a new rice cooker and a large back of rice, Wu said.

Yang Qulin arranged for his own children and Yang Liujiu to live in his grandmother's home during this time.



Yang says he prefers to stay in Shenzhen.

BQB Photos



Yang Liujiu says he lived on wild herbs and fish.



Yang and his classmates in Shenzhen

"The wild herbs he was filmed eating are common foods in our village," said Wu Youji, Yang Qulin's uncle. "The TV crew visited our vil-

lage several times and shot their pictures after making careful arrangements."

Reporters visited Yang's school and interviewed his classmates, who confirmed their village often eats the herbs maqi, jiandao and fishwort.

"We also go fishing as soon as we finish our homework. It's the best entertainment in our village," the students said.

Furthermore, the school said Yang had been receiving monetary support from both the local government and the school itself.

Yang Jiayong, the school principal, said Yang Liujiu lived on the campus from Monday to Friday and only had to go home on the weekends.

But Yang said he still wants to stay in Shenzhen.

Guangxi TV Broadcasting Network is planning to air a new documentary in which Yang Lijun thanks the people of Shenzhen and the viewers who donated money for his aid.

Tsinghua student seeks to unmask app thief

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

A graduating senior at the Central Academy of Fine Arts at Tsinghua University learned a lesson in piracy with his capstone project.

Hou Shichen, a student of visual communication, was shocked when he found his "Roll The Eggs" was being distributed on several app stores only days after his game had been rejected.

The Android game, created with four friends at other schools, was uploaded to 360 Mobile's app store and approved on June 5. However, Tencent and others rejected the game on account of unspecified security holes.

Hou was puzzled when classmates told him they had downloaded his game from Tencent's store.

After investigating the app stores of Tencent, Baidu, Gfan.com and Google, Hou found the only difference between his app and the alternate versions was the name of the developer.

While the Google and Tencent's app stores reported more than 30,000 downloads, Hou's release on 360 Mobile had fewer than 10.

"The number of downloads is extremely important. Sometimes that's all that's used to figure out who the real developer is," Hou said.

"I am the only one who has the source code. I don't know why these stores accepted submissions from another user while rejecting mine," he said.

Baidu has since removed the game from its online store. The company has not been willing to unmask the "developer" who submitted it.

Hou said he plans to file a lawsuit for copyright infringement in hopes of unmasking the user.

Henan farmers form fake gov to fight developers

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

A crew of men and women in Henan Province who formed their own fake village governments were sentenced to jail terms ranging from eight months to two years last week.

Dissatisfied with the People's Government of Dengzhou, Zhang Haixin, Ma Xianglan and Wang Liangshuang took matters into their own hands last September.

The three announced they were "dissolving" the Dengzhou government to open new governments specifically for the towns of Wenqu, Gaoji and Xitan. Zhang took charge of Wenqu while Ma and Wang took Gaoji and Xitan.

The three created more than a dozen stamps and used them to issue some 40 documents under the name of the People's Government of Dengzhou. They also appointed more than a dozen university graduates to work in their new government offices.

More than 200 villagers "sold" their land to the new local government to circumvent a property developer who was attempting to buy up their farmland.

The fake governments were only discovered when they ousted the apartment developer, stating it lacked the necessary certificates to build in their village.

Zhang, Ma and Wang have appealed to a higher court in hopes of having the verdict overturned.



The three villagers were sentenced to jail terms ranging from eight months to two years.

Philanthropist exports his controversial brand of 'charity'

By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

Eccentric tycoon Chen Guangbiao is taking his self-aggrandizing brand of charity abroad.

In a June 25 stunt advertised in *The New York Times*, the flamboyant philanthropist lured 1,000 homeless Americans to a luncheon at New York Central Park's Loeb Boathouse with the promise of \$300 hand-outs.

But Chen's latest trip has left bystanders burned on both sides of the Pacific.

Lunch turns sour

In what might go down as Central Park's most surreal scene of 2014, Chinese volunteers donned the uniforms of the old Red Army to sing "We Are the World" with Chen Guangbiao to an audience of homeless Americans.

Some of the homeless men and women even dressed up in the Chinese uniforms to follow along.

But the publicity stunt of this self-proclaimed "Lei Feng for a new era" ended bitterly, with many media reports stating that only 200 of the 1,000 homeless were allowed entry. The missing tables went to the gaggle of Chinese media groups who had followed Chen.

The only homeless men and women who received their \$300 were the three who posed for one of Chen's promotional photos.

Chen swears that the rest of the money is coming: he entrusted the New York City Rescue Mission to distribute the \$90,000 he set aside for the event to all the attendees. He also donated \$210,000 to two homeless rescue stations.

When asked by domestic media what on earth he was thinking, Chen said he wanted to "harmonize Sino-American relations" and "give America's poor the money they so badly need."

In the run up to the luncheon, Chen attempted to pass out a few \$100 notes on the streets of New York City. However, his entourage of reporters made many reluctant to accept Chen's generosity.

"One street vendor was afraid that police would recognize him and snatch his goods if the reporters took his picture," Chen said. "But some of the singers and musicians were more than happy to take my money."

Charitable clown

Chen's peculiar brand of charity is mired in controversy.

While he eschews charity organizations and government relief programs in favor of handing money directly to the poor, his "good deeds" appear to stem mainly from an obsession with self-promotion.

The historical Lei Feng was a humble People's Liberation Army soldier who died in a truck accident in 1964 after years of assisting people wherever he could.



Homeless New Yorkers attend the lunch in the Central Park

CFP Photos



Chen Guangbiao smashes his sedan to promote bicycling.



Chen used to expose the cash to help the poor in China.

Chen could stand to learn from Lei Feng's humility. His most recent business card is packed with a dozen self-granted titles such as "China Moral Leader," "Most Influential Person of China," "Most Well-Known and Beloved Chinese Role Model" and "Most Charismatic Philanthropist of China."

But Chen may simply be making up for his humble beginnings.

Born in 1968 in an impoverished county in Jiangsu Province, the young Chen faced desperate conditions. His brother and sister starved to death, and by the age of 10 Chen was supporting his family by carrying water to sell in a neighboring village.

Chen was admitted to Nanjing Chinese Herbal Medicine University in the 1980s and began experimenting with entrepreneurship as soon as he graduated. At one point he was selling breakfast and clean

water to his neighbors.

Although he is often referred to as a recycling tycoon, it was Golden Willy Medical Equipment that made Chen a millionaire by 1996.

In 2001, Chen moved on to form Huangpu Regeneration Resources, a company that would clear and sort the waste from demolished buildings. The business was astonishingly profitable as China entered an era of rabid reconstruction.

First blush with media

Chen first came to attention in 2007 when he was filmed smashing apart his Mercedes-Benz sedan to encourage his employees to bicycle to work.

In 2008, Chen traveled to Sichuan Province to assist victims of the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake. When the Yushu earthquake struck Qinghai, he was once again on the scene handing bags of money and rolls of bills to victims.

Chen turned his attentions abroad in 2012, when he took out an advertisement in *The New York Times* to declare that the disputed Diaoyu Islands have always been a part of China's territory. He also announced plans to contribute 1.5 billion yuan to the construction of a bridge between Xiamen, Fujian and Jinmen, Taiwan.

He announced plans to buy out *The New York Times* later that year and made an offer to buy *The Wall Street Journal* when his bid failed.

Chen is estimated to possess financial assets in excess of 5 billion yuan.

Rumbles at home

While a few netizens praised Chen for showing how "rich Chinese can spread the advantages of socialism to a capitalist country," more were incensed by his antics.

Many ridiculed him for reducing the Chinese image to a caricature and neglecting the needy at home.

"Chen Guangbiao is an example of just how muddled the word 'morality' has become in China," wrote Zhou Bihua, a commentator for in an interview in ifeng.com

Online polls found that more than 70 percent of surveyed netizens were unhappy with Chen's latest showy attempt at philanthropy.

"Everyone saying bad things about me is sponsored by special interest groups. I'm not afraid and I don't have to listen to them," Chen said in an interview on ifeng.com.

Wang Jun, a professor of sociology from Peking University, said Chen could make a bigger difference by creating jobs or granting loans to people who want to start a business rather than fishing for photo ops with perpetual victims.

But Chen sees nothing wrong with his showiness.

"Why should I keep silent when doing good things!?" Chen said. "My way of doing things will wake up China's tycoons to do the same and bring balance to our society."

Reluctant recipients

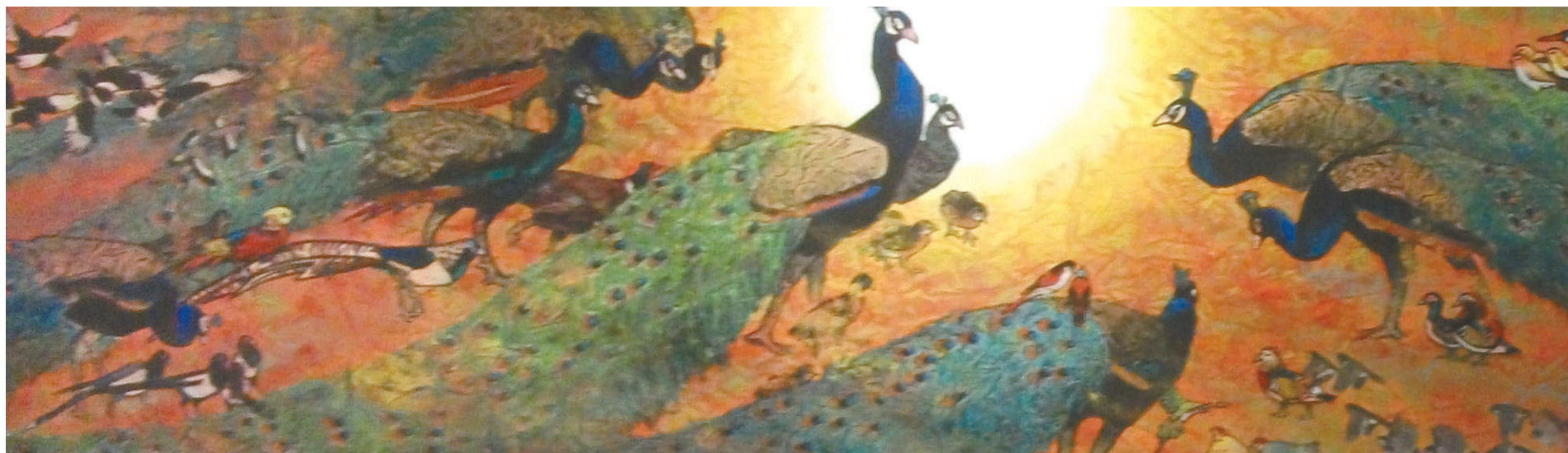
New York City Rescue Mission Director Craig Mayes had his misgiving about Chen from the start.

"You don't hand money directly to homeless people," Mayes said. "Some of these people are not even homeless - many of them will use the money to buy drugs."

"Before the lunch, Chen Guangbiao kept repeating again and again that he was doing this to help the poor and the homeless. The result was that he helped himself," Mayes said.

Mayes said the \$90,000 would be used to provide meals to homeless people at the mission shelter. The sum is enough to provide meals to 250 people for 90 days.

Capturing the season of



Hundreds of Birds Fly to the Sun



Asking Whose Flower are Left



Early Spring



Swallows



Warm Spring



By ZHAO HONGYI
Beijing Today Staff

The miracle of spring and the end of the long winter define the paintings of Zeng Yingchun.

Zeng was born in Heilongjiang Province in 1963. At a young age, she was forced to follow her father when he was sent down to work in the countryside. She grew up surrounded by rural scenes of grass and flowers.

"Spring was the season that gave us color. Its imagery has deep meaning," she said. To best represent the season, Zeng dedicated herself to mastering the art of watercolors.

Zeng graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts in the early 1980s and began exhibiting her watercolor paintings around the world. Her works are dominated by rich red, golden and lavender flowers seen across the countryside of China's rural northeast.

"My goal isn't to offer commentary on our modern reality or my own thought process. I just attempt to paint what I saw," Zeng said.

Zeng has proven especially skillful at latching onto overlooked details of flowers, grass and farm animals and incorporating them into the scenes on her paper. Such happy, nostalgic elements are juxtaposed with the negative impact of some of her topics.

"The ability to capture both sides of a scene is what strengthens my topics," Zeng said.

Curator Li Huihong praised Zeng for combining traditional Chinese ink painting and Western watercolor styles in her works.

"Zeng follows the oriental painting style of focusing on the atmosphere while implementing a Western focus on the details. The makes her work all the more astonishing," said Jia Fangzhou, another curator.

Zeng's paintings frequently appear on auction in China. She is currently a member of the China Artist Association, China Hue Art Society and China Paper Cutting Society, as well as vice chairman of a number of Chinese painting schools.

ShanghART Gallery

Where: 261 Caochangdi, Old Airport Road, Chaoyang District

Duration: Through July 18

Tel: 6432 3202

Web: shanghartgallery.com

color



Pure expressions in black and white



painting on paper

By **ZHAO HONGYI**
Beijing Today Staff

More than 100 visitors came to view the master works of artist Shen Fan at the opening of his most recent solo exhibition on June 14.

The Shanghai-based artist was born in Jiangsu Province in 1952. Shen completed his art education in the early 1980s, and since then has been working as an art teacher.

Shen's first solo exhibition came in 1986 at the Hongkou Cultural and Art Center in Shanghai. Since then his creations have been exhibited at galleries around the world.

Known for his "pure eye," Shen reduces images to value studies in black and white. He takes a pessimistic view that all efforts to change or develop the world are essentially pointless repetition.

In his Ceramics series, Shen uses handmade ceramics glazed in black and white to create beautiful compositions.

In Paintings on Wall, he uses paper smeared in black and white oil paints to create a beautiful and difficult to imitate image.

"Preventing imitators is one of my biggest concerns," Shen said.

"Shen's works exist totally separate from their environment. They have no social explanation and instead act as an echo of art history," said Wu Liang, Shen's curator in Beijing.

Wu said Shen's work serves as a vehicle for self-expression rather than a mirror for society. But that internal dialogue has led to a spiritual evolution – one that produces a truly pure form of expression.

The worlds created by Shen echo the past and lead visitors to understand and accept what he believes.

Q&A with Shen Fan

Q: What do you mean by the *Black & White Confusion*, the title of your exhibition?

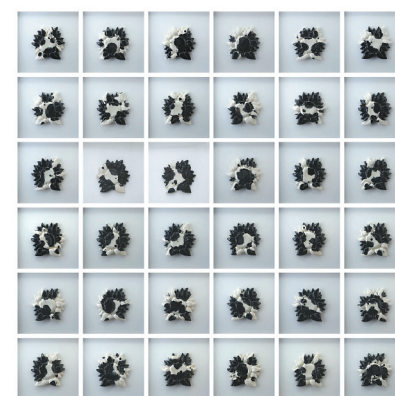
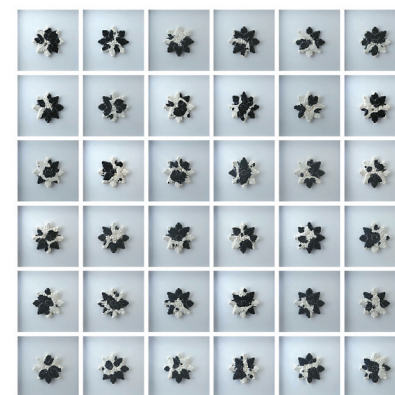
A: All these works were created in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when I was in my 40s. There's a Chinese saying that "You can't be fouled in your 40s," and that's what I was aiming for.

Q: You had a very pessimistic view of the world when you created these works. Do you still feel this way or have your views changed?

A: I don't think anything has changed. I still have no idea how to see a brighter future for humanity. These works reflect my views, so I want them to remain as they are.

Q: When did you create your third Ceramics series?

A: It was in 1996. I was in Henan Province preparing a job and started assembling leftover bits of ceramic into a new piece. I used wet newspaper to wrap the eramic pieces before burning them again in the kiln.



Black and White works

798 Art Bridge Gallery

Where: D09-1, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Through July 17

Tel: 6433 1798

Dog meat tradition leaves activists howling



By DIAO DIAO
Beijing Today Intern

The eating of dog meat remains one of Asia's most controversial subjects, and yearly dog meat festivals offer an excuse to drag up the debate over a culinary delicacy.

On the weekend of June 21, activists descended on Yulin in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to protest the city's famous festival and attempt to wrestle several cartloads of dogs away from their gruesome fate.

In a bizarre display of priorities gone awry, several activists physically assaulted residents and tourists who came to Yulin for the dog meat festival.

But for how much attention Yulin's dog meat festival gets, it is only one of many across the country. Peixian in Jiangsu Province is equally famous for its similarly canine-themed biennial meat festival.

Reporters for the *Lianhe Zaobao* in Singapore interviewed residents of Yulin seeking a new perspective on the controversial practice. Most likened it to eating chicken, fish or pork.

The intense criticism of the city in social media even had a galvanizing effect on the local community, inspiring many non-dog-eaters to make a special exception and join in the tradition.

"I actually don't eat dog meat, but they insult our Yulin people too much," one resident told a local newspaper. "This year I will definitely join to support the dog meat festival."

It's not hard to understand the intense emotional reaction of dog-lovers.

Excavations of Neolithic dwellings show that the dog was the first mammal domesticated by early humans, and the skeletons of tamed dogs appear together with stone tools in many ancient burial sites.

But dogs were also an important source of food during this time, and dog bones have been found both in excrement and together with dining tools.

Few animals have been domesticated purely for labor. The noble pig was domesticated as much for its tender meat as for its tough hide and sharp teeth, which were used to fashion early armor and weaponry.

For how much many recoil at the thought of chowing down on man's best friend, dog has been a common element of international cuisine until relatively recent times.

In the 1800s, many Parisians praised dog for its "beautiful and light" taste. Germans frequently ate their best



Scenes of the yulin dog meat festival

friends during war times, when dog meat was euphemistically called "blockade mutton." The practice persists to this day in rural Switzerland.

Even Americans are eating dog – albeit indirectly. Many of the 3 million to

Nevertheless, dog meat has fallen out of favor in many locales during the last century, and modern city-dwellers who keep dogs for personal amusement seem to liken the practice to cannibalism.

"My children are always busy work-

Dogs have been kept in human households since 10,000 BC or earlier.

4 million stray dogs and cats euthanized in American animal shelters each year are rendered into raw protein to be fed to pigs and cattle.

ing so I only have this smart [Chihuahua] to accompany me," said one 78-year-old woman in Beijing. The dog has been her sole companion since her husband passed away eight years ago.

In Beijing, where dog meat is rarely seen, most residents share her attitude.

"We've voiced our opinions online and participated in surveys. That's all we can do. We can only hope that the people who continue these traditions can respect our feelings," a local resident said.

Stock up on summer essentials



By DIAO DIAO
Beijing Today Intern

Bust out the parasols because summer is here!
While foreigners are often confused by the Chinese aversion to sunlight, it's really not as mysterious as you might imagine. Asian beauty standards emphasize pale skin, and many people have allergic reactions to extended UV exposure.
Arm yourself with these summer essentials before going out.

Umbrella

It might seem positively Victorian to see legions of women walking around with umbrellas on a sunny day, but there's a good reason for it.

In addition to providing portable shade, most sun umbrellas have a UV-resistant coating that makes a great alternative to greasy sunblock. It also doubles as a defense against rain when Beijing's weather turns fickle.

The vinyl material is water-resistant and dries with a few brisk shakes.

Web: meilishuo.com

Sunblock

People are picky about their sunblock, and it's tough to balance non-greasy creams with ones that are guaranteed to last.

Foreign sun block brands don't work especially well on Asian skin, so most people prefer to shop for local brands. Etude House is popular with younger shoppers. It contains mangosteen, narcissus, lotus and aloe extract, allowing it to protect the skin without being too greasy.

The formula is waterproof and sweat-proof so you will have to use a cleaner to remove it at the end of the day.

Web: taobao.com

Hat

If you don't like to hold umbrellas or wear sunblock, then you will probably need a hat. This is a simple nostalgic hat without any luxurious decorations – just a black ribbon tied in a bow.

The arc of the edge looks random and natural. If you have other ribbons or scarves you can tie them on to customize it for your own style.

Web: meilishuo.com

Sunglasses

Once reserved for organized crime and gangsters, sunglasses are making a comeback with the general population.

These sunglasses were featured in the popular Korean series *My Love From the Star* and *The Heirs*.

In addition to looking cool, these glasses will protect your eyes from strong light when driving, which can help reduce the number of sun-related traffic accidents.

Web: meilishuo.com

Sun coat

Sun coats only appeared a few years ago. At the time they were short and only came in simple colors.

Today there are a lot more design options. This one comes in both solid colors and patterns.

A long sun coat can be the perfect complement to your dresses, shorts or skirts. Unlike older designs that used UV-resistant vinyl, these new sun coats are made of breathable cotton.

Web: meilishuo.com



Dai dishes to die for

By DIAO DIAO
Beijing Today Intern

China's southern cuisine is famous for its delicate presentation and bursting flavor.

Yunnan boasts the most famous of the southern styles, with trademark dishes such as rice noodles and qiguoji. Some people even vacation in Yunnan just to taste the authentic food.

For those who can't afford the time or money needed for a southern voyage, Beijing's Baoqin Restaurant offers an attractive alternative. Baoqin Restaurant serves the authentic cuisine of China's Dai ethnic minority. The interior is decorated in Dai style with heavy wood furniture.

Most of the wait staff are of Dai ethnicity. They are knowledgeable and can provide great recommendations for first-time diners. The restaurant is located in the university area on the west side of the city.



Rice noodles



Pineapple Rice

Pineapple rice is sweet, appealing and packed with vitamins and proteins.

The dish is made by stuffing rice into a scooped out pineapple and steaming it until it turns yellow. The balance of vitamins is reportedly helpful for people working under pressure, especially students who often burn a lot of energy when committing facts to memory.

The dish was created in Thailand, though today it is popular throughout Southeast Asian cuisine. The Thai version usually includes nuts and seafood.

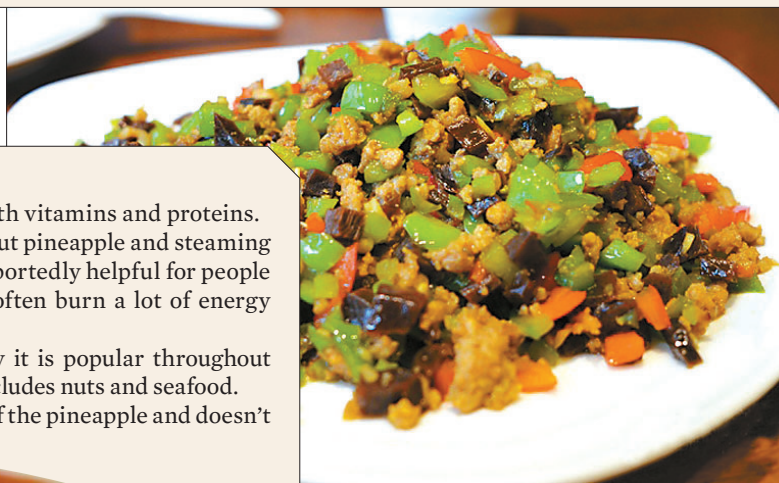
Dai style pineapple rice keeps the original smell of the pineapple and doesn't add any other ingredients.

Lemongrass Fish

Lemongrass is used in southern cooking for its scent as well as its appearance.

In this dish, long strands of the herb are used to tie up a whole fish before steaming. The complete coating ensures the lemongrass flavor is distributed evenly through the flesh.

Lemongrass can also be cooked with other meats such as chicken and beef. It tastes fresh whether it is steamed or roasted.



Heisanduo

Heisanduo is a classic Yunnan dish made of Yunnan pepper, black mustard and minced pork. Today it is most often made with green or red pepper.

It's usually difficult to find Yunnan black mustard in Beijing, but Baoqin Restaurant maintains the authentic flavor. The dish is a bit salty, and the waiters strongly recommended you mix it with rice.

Portions are large and should be enough to serve three people.

Qiguoji (Qiguo Chicken)

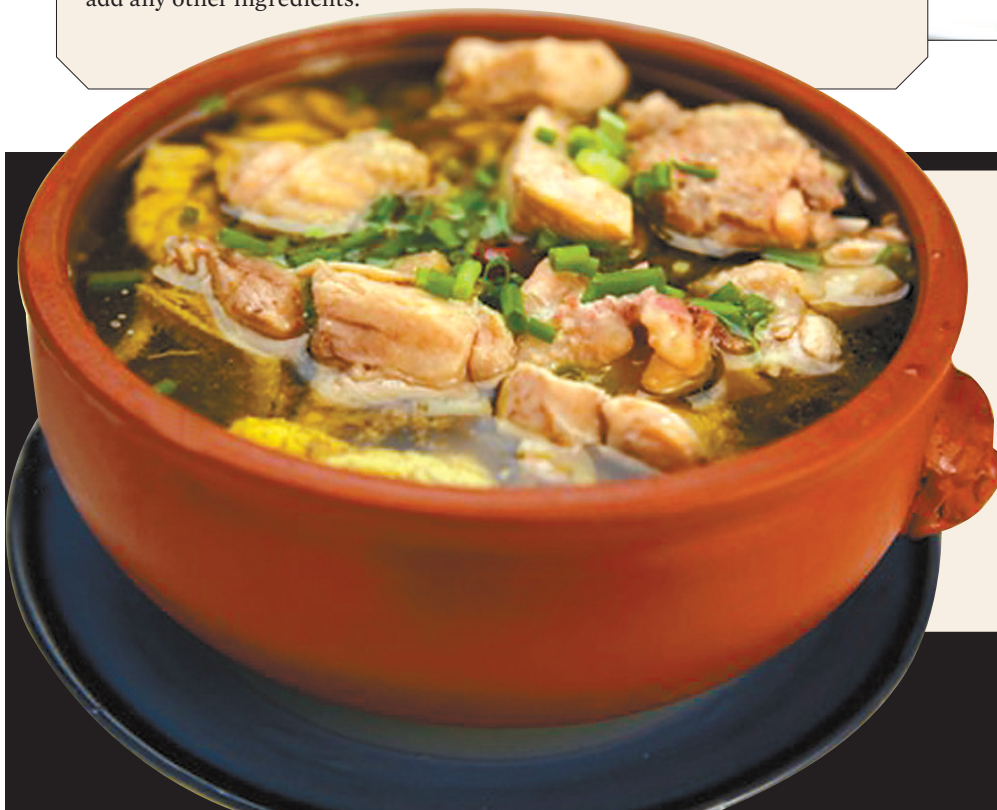
Qiguoji is one of the most famous dishes in Yunnan. The fresh soup and soft meat are attractive, but the most exceptional thing about qiguoji is the pot.

The dish is cooked in a clay pot that contains an open cylinder in the middle through which steam can enter but not escape.

The soup ingredients are diced and added to the pot with medicinal herbs. The chef then places the pot over a basin of steaming water. The soup is created as the steam evaporates, enters the cone and rolls down the sides of the pot.

Other dishes such as zhutongrou, meat steamed in bamboo, potato rolls and rice wine are also frequently ordered. Most are light and go easy on the soy sauce.

Prices are high, but the authentic taste is worth it.



Baoqin Restaurant

Where: 16 Weigong Jie, Haidian District

When: 11 am-9:30 pm

Tel: 6848 3189

Cost: 150 yuan